

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 were previously pending in the application. Claims 21, 22, 24, and 26 are canceled; and claims 1, 10, 23, and 25 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-20, 23, and 25 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

On page 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in view of Stewart. On page 7, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in view of Stewart and further in view of Junek. On page 7, the Examiner objected to claims 21, 22, 24, and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of claim 21 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 21 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 21 was objected to, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Since claims 2-9 and 19 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 10 is amended to include the recitations of claim 22 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 10 is equivalent to previously pending claim 22 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 22 was objected to, the Applicant submits that claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record. Since claims 11-18 and 20 depend variously from claim 10, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the prior art of record.


Claim 23 is amended to include the recitations of claim 24 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 23 is equivalent to previously pending claim 24 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 24 was objected to, the Applicant submits that claim 23 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 25 is amended to include the recitations of claim 26 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 25 is equivalent to previously pending claim 26 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 26 was objected to, the Applicant submits that claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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